



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Department of Highways District 10

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**State highway equipment operators participate in seventh annual
District 10 Equipment Roadeo**

*Event helps equipment operators prepare for snow and ice removal
season; first-place winners hail from Estill, Lee and Powell counties*

JACKSON, KY – It may not have been the Olympics, and the competitors may not have been vying for gold medals, but county pride was on the line as employees from the state highway garages in the Department of Highways District 10 participated in the seventh annual Equipment Roadeo on Wednesday, Aug. 8.

In the end, the competitors from Estill County came away with the bulk of the hardware when scores from the four equipment-operating events were tallied. Estill's team won the overall crew championship, and the county also produced the overall individual winner and one event winner. Estill County's crew broke the four-year winning streak for Magoffin County, which finished second this year.

The Roadeo signals the unofficial beginning of snow and ice removal season for the Department of Highways. This event, held each year in late summer at the district's equipment garage in Beattyville, brings together equipment operators from the district's county garages for a day of friendly competition and fellowship.

This year's District 10 Roadeo allowed equipment operators from the district's county crews to show their skills in operating the equipment they use to maintain state highways in the district. The obstacle courses simulated actual situations equipment operators may encounter in the performance of their duties.

In addition to the traditional snowplow and backhoe events, two new competitions were added this year. Equipment operators had the chance to demonstrate their skills in using a tractor with bushhog and a grader.

Individual event winners were:

- Overall individual, Jason Smith, Estill County.
- Backhoe: Greg Arvin, Estill County, first place; Darrell Rogers, Menifee County, second place.
- Snowplow obstacle course: Pat Graham, Powell County; first place; Jason Smith, Estill County, second place; David Black, Owsley County, third place; Chuck Ward, Magoffin County, fourth place.
- Tractor with bushhog: L.C. Moore, Lee County, first place; James Trusty, Magoffin County, second place.
- Grader: Kevin McIntosh, Lee County, first place; Jason Smith, Estill County, second place.

The individual winners and runners-up will advance to a statewide competition against participants from the other 11 highway districts across Kentucky, to be held later this month.

"Operating the equipment necessary to maintain our highways year-round, and to keep them clear of snow and ice in the winter, takes a lot of skill and knowledge. The Rodeo gives our employees a chance to show off their abilities," said Corbett Caudill, acting chief district engineer. "This event also gives our employees from our county garages, who don't get to have much interaction with other crews on a regular basis, to know that they are all part of one team and that we appreciate all of them for their effort and hard work."

District 10 encompasses the counties of Breathitt, Estill, Lee, Magoffin, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Powell and Wolfe in east-central and southeastern Kentucky.

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